

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-10
- II. Claims 11-12
- III. Claims 13-19, 20-23, 27-41, 43, and 44
- IV. Claims 24, 25, and 26
- V. Claim 42

Applicants elect group I, claims 1-10. Claims 11-44 have been withdrawn.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2004. Claims 1-10 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with all claims being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 10 independent claims. Because Applicants have previously paid for 44 total claims and 8 independent claims, Applicants submit that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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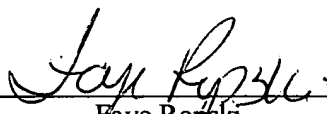
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on October 4, 2004.


Faye Ropski